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EMS

Bulletin

National EMS Memorial



How often do you risk your life for someone you have never met? If you're an emergency medical services (EMS) provider, you risk it all, everyday, for those who need your help. This risk and sacrifice is why the National EMS Memorial was founded and every year those who gave the ultimate sacrifice, their lives, are honored and remembered. The 2008 National EMS Memorial service will be held Saturday, May 24, 2008

at the First Baptist Church in Roanoke, Virginia beginning at 6 p.m.

The National EMS Memorial service is part of a weekend long celebration to remember those who have given their lives in the effort to save others. Since its official induction, the National EMS Memorial has honored 360 individuals from 44 states. This year, unfortunately, even more names will be added to the Tree of Life, which is a bronze oak tree whose leaves are engraved with the name, agency, and date of loss of the EMS provider who died in the line of duty.

It's essential to recognize and honor those who have sacrificed themselves to save another. It takes a special individual to put another person's life before their own and EMS providers do this everyday without thinking twice. Please join us in Roanoke, fill the church and honor your fellow providers who made the ultimate sacrifice. If you can't make it to the church, join in the National EMS Memorial Moment of Silence scheduled for 8 p.m. on Saturday, May 24, 2008.

For more information, please visit the National EMS Memorial service Web site, nemsms.org.



The National EMS Memorial Tree of Life



www.vdh.virginia.gov

National EMS Memorial Bike Ride

How better to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice than to join EMS providers from all over the country (and from Ireland!) make the ride to Roanoke, Virginia during the 2008 National EMS Memorial Bike Ride. The bike ride coincides with National EMS Week and will end in Roanoke for the National EMS Memorial service being held on Saturday, May 24th.

This year there will be 24 states and two countries represented during the 2008 ride. Nicknamed the Muddy Angels, riders come from all over the country to bike together from New York City and from Kentucky to Roanoke. The National EMS Memorial Bike Ride is very vocal about why they make this effort every year including; to honor EMS providers who died in the line of duty, raise public awareness about line of duty deaths and disabilities in the EMS profession, honor EMS provider who continue to risk their lives despite dangerous safety conditions, advocate for national tracking of injuries, near misses, and line of duty deaths in EMS, and promote healthy life styles for EMS providers through physical activity and balanced nutrition. This is a very honorable cause and it's not too late to sign up! You can join the ride in Virginia and join the EMS advocacy movement to honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice and who will be inducted into the National EMS Memorial this year, as well as those from past years.

The Virginia Office of EMS (OEMS) will be on scene to capture the monumental gathering of Muddy Angels in Salem, Virginia. This gathering brings together the riders who will make the trip from New York with those riding in from Kentucky. They will unite to ride parade-style into Roanoke.

For more information on the National EMS Memorial Bike Ride, visit www.muddyangels.org. You can also view the route they intend on taking through Virginia. If your organization would like to host a rest stop for the riders or provide overnight accommodations, please contact Elizabeth Singer at elizabeth.singer@vdh.virginia.gov.

OEMS Joins the Ride

Joining the 2008 National EMS Memorial Bike Ride is one of our own OEMS staffers! Tim Perkins, EMS Planner, will be joining the Muddy Angels for part of the Virginia leg of the ride. He will also be blogging about his experience on the OEMS blog at virginiaems.wordpress.com. Check in periodically from May 23rd to the 24th to find out where Perkins is and how the ride's going.

Perkins is also the creator of Medneck Central, which is a light-hearted community bringing together diehard EMS providers. Visit www.medneck.com for pictures, stories, merchandise and more! You can also find Perkins on Myspace at www.myspace.com/medneck.



National EMS Memorial Bike Ride, Inc ©
Image by Steve Berry



Celebrate EMS Week!

EMS Week is almost here! How are you celebrating? Are you educating the public? Celebrating your agency's providers? Teaching children safety tips? Hosting an open house? However you plan to organize your EMS Week, be sure to make the most of it! This year EMS Week is May 18 - 24. The American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) continues to provide great resources and information for agencies wishing to participate and hold events to educate their communities and honor their EMS providers. This year the theme is "EMS: Your Life is Our Mission" and OEMS mailed the ACEP planning catalog to help each agency prepare and utilize EMS Week to it's fullest.

Are you stuck thinking about what your agency can do this year for EMS Week? ACEP provides several ideas like having an agency open house, visit a local school to educate children on safety, provide tours of ambulances and hold mini safety sessions. The possibilities are endless.

Be sure to figure out who your target audience is going to be and promote and hold events that will reach and educate that audience. Whether it's the general public, chil-



dren, the elderly or possible new members, creating an event for your intended audience is easy. To download another EMS Week planning kit from ACEP visit www.acep.org/emsweek.

Don't only celebrate EMS Week, remind your communities of the excellent services that your agency provides and that their life is your mission.



On Wednesday, May 21st, visit a local Sheetz with your valid Virginia EMS certification card and re-

ceive a free beverage! Visit www.vdh.virginia.gov/oems to view the Sheetz EMS Day poster for more information!

A Bear-ific Cause

One way that OEMS will celebrate EMS Week is by holding a stuffed animal drive beginning May 28th, which is EMS for Children (EMSC) Day.

With this stuffed animal drive, OEMS hopes to promote the EMSC program and highlight the advancements and challenges of caring for children. Every year at OEMS'

Virginia EMS Symposium, we make sure to include numerous courses on how to handle children appropriately in emergency situations. To help ease these stressful situations, ambulances tend to carry stuffed animals to help comfort pediatrics, whether they are they patient or with their injured parent.



OEMS will be collecting new and gently used stuffed animals until July 1, 2008. We will distribute these at the annual Virginia EMS Symposium for providers to bring back to their agencies and have on their ambulances in case an incident with a child occurs.

If you would like to donate to the OEMS stuffed animal drive, send your donations to:

Virginia Office of EMS
109 Governor St., UB-55
Richmond, VA 23219



Pandemic Influenza Planning for EMS and PSAPs

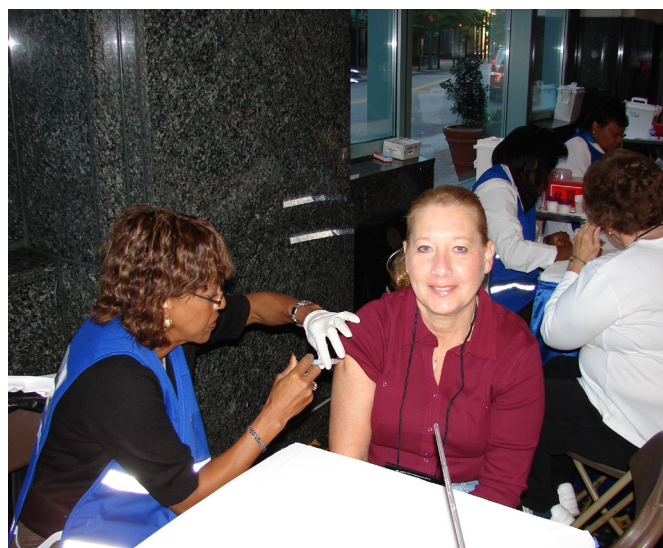
By: Winnie Pennington, Emergency Service Planner

An influenza pandemic could seriously impact Virginia's health care delivery system, its transportation system, economical and social structure. As Virginia's health care "safety net," EMS will be faced with higher demands for services while experiencing problems similar to the rest of the state's businesses and infrastructure including increased employee absenteeism, disruption of supply chains and increased rates of illness and death. 911 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) serve as the public's single point of access to EMS, law enforcement and fire services – as well as an avenue for requesting many other services. Ensuring both 911 and EMS are well-integrated into the Nation's pandemic influenza planning and response is essential to the Nation's health and safety in the event of a pandemic.

The National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza: Implementation Plan (May 2006) directed the Department of Transportation, in cooperation with its Federal partners, to develop statewide EMS pandemic influenza guidelines, as well as model protocols for 911 call centers and PSAPs. With its long-standing commitment to improving the Nation's EMS system and sharing responsibility with the National Telecommunications Information Administration (NTIA) for the National E911 office, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) was delegated responsibility for both tasks.

Although the format of each document is slightly different, the stakeholders worked hard to ensure that the two are closely related and interconnected. It is recommended that both documents, "EMS Pandemic Influenza Guidelines for Statewide Adoption" and "Preparing for Pandemic Influenza: Recommendations for Protocol Development for 911 Personnel and Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs)," be reviewed together and can both be downloaded at www.ems.gov.

The audience for both documents is statewide EMS agencies, statewide 911 managers, local EMS agencies, 911 PSAP managers and other key stakeholders who could assist these agencies in the event of an influenza pandemic. Both documents are intended to provide guidance to state and local agencies in developing their pandemic influenza plans and operational protocols. Given the unique configuration of



A 2008 Virginia EMS Symposium participant receives a flu shot.

systems and local resources, it was not feasible to develop detailed national operational protocols for EMS or for 911. However, a sample 911 call flow sheet, integrated with the EMS system, is provided as well as sample protocols (inter-related) for both EMS and for 911.

The documents can be used to provide a framework for pandemic influenza planning. They provide general guidance, considerations, references and ideas that can enhance the optimal delivery of emergency care and 911 services during an influenza pandemic. In the process of preparing these documents, stakeholders noted an important additional benefit that PSAPs and EMS agencies can take from the effort of getting ready for pandemic influenza: the collaboration with public health can be a catalyst and model for other community initiatives for everyday operations, as well as disaster planning.

For questions or comments contact Winnie Pennington, OEMS Emergency Service Planner at (804) 864-7644 or winnie.pennington@vdh.virginia.gov.

(Information Source: EMS Pandemic Influenza Guidelines for Statewide Adoption, Task 6.1.13.6 National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza: Implementation Plan)

So, You Want to Do a Survey?, Part 2

Preparing Your Sampling Frame

By: Jodi Kuhn, Statistical Analyst Supervisor

In the first installment of “So, You Want to Do a Survey?” you learned how to determine:

1. If a survey was the right data collection method for you
2. What type of survey you want to do

This issue will describe how to prepare a sampling frame.

Preparing the sampling frame is by far the most complicated and time consuming part of survey development. It is when you will come to the difficult realizations that:

1. This survey is going to take a lot longer than I thought it would
2. It's going to require personnel and/or monetary resources
3. Not everyone will be as excited about completing my survey as I thought

All three are tough to cope with but with some good planning (and medication) you will persevere.

The goal established in the first issue was to, “measure the level of satisfaction that Virginia EMS providers have with the current regional council structure.” Your first instinct may be to simply send a survey announcement to every provider (33,000) in the state. The problem with that is unless you get a 100 percent response rate, you will not be able to draw conclusions of what all providers think, even if a large percentage respond. Without using some form of random

sampling all that you will know is what those that completed the survey think about the regional council structure. Since we determined that our population is EMS providers we want the results to be representative of all EMS providers. We want to be able to generalize *beyond* our sample.

Getting something to be representative is where all of the effort comes in. You can have a good survey but it is a representative survey that will get your biostatistician all tingly. A good sampling frame is the key to your survey being representative. The first questions to ask yourself are:

1. How many people are in your population? About 33,000
2. What is your acceptable margin of error? 5% (typical)
3. What is your acceptable level of confidence? 95% (typical)

With those two things and a sample size calculator (available for free online, i.e. www.lcwa.com/samplesize/) you will find out how many randomly selected people you will need to respond to the survey. By doing this you will not only ensure a representative sample but you will also save yourself a lot of time not having to try to recruit 33,000 people to take your survey.

After completing the three aforementioned steps it turns out that we only need approximately 380 respondents. Be aware that this is how many people we need to actually complete the survey. Always send out more survey requests since response rates may not be as high as you expect. A general rule of thumb is to assume a 20 percent response rate.

Next edition...Writing the Questions (finally!)



Do You Need Books for an EMS Course?

The joint Virginia Department of Fire Programs and OEMS bookstore makes buying all of your EMS course books simple and fast! Visit www.vafire.com/bookstore to order your supplies online today!

1005 Technology Park
Glen Allen, VA 23059
(804) 249-1976



Virginia Beach Volunteer Rescue Squad Wins ADDY Award for Recruitment Campaign



The Virginia Beach Volunteer Rescue Squad's Recruitment Campaign that was sponsored by the Virginia Beach Rescue Squad Foundation won the Best in Show Award at the Hampton Roads ADDY Awards.

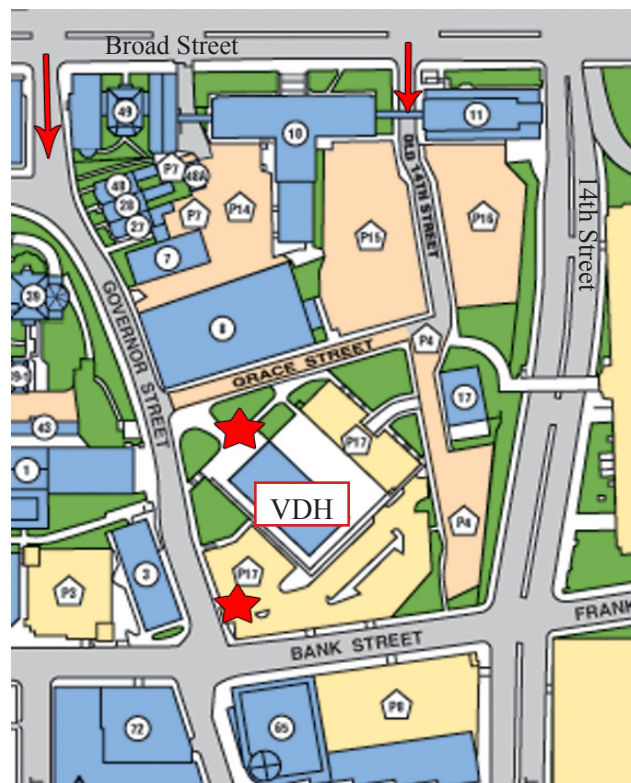
The ADDY Awards is the world's largest advertising competition, with over 60,000 entries annually. The ADDY Awards recognize all forms of advertising from media of all types, creative by all sizes, and entrants of all levels from anywhere in the world. The American Advertising Federation, a not-for-profit industry association conducts the ADDY Awards through its 200 member advertising clubs and 15 districts. It is the only creative awards program administered by the advertising industry for the industry.

With this Best in Show award, the campaign will move on to regional awards and if it wins there it will compete in the national awards.

New Parking Spaces Available for OEMS Visitors

We all know that parking in downtown Richmond can be a hassle, especially trying to find parking to visit the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) Madison building, where OEMS is located. As of now, there are two specifically designated parking spaces around the VDH building for EMS parking only. These spaces have been made especially for OEMS to help alleviate the difficulty our constituents have when visiting us in downtown. The spaces are clearly marked for EMS parking only. One space is in the very front of the VDH building's mezzanine entrance. The other is located in the parking lot in front of the VDH building's lower basement entrance. The spots are marked by red stars on the map shown. For driving directions, please visit vdh.virginia.gov/oems.

When you come to visit us downtown, it's best to call the person you intend to visit ahead of time to arrange your parking pass. Please park in the available EMS space, call the OEMS staffer you intend to visit for entrance to the building, and OEMS will give you a parking pass to put in your front windshield for the duration of your visit. We hope that this will help make visiting our facility a lot easier for you and we're happy to announce that a larger visitors parking lot is currently in construction. We will update you to let you know when the new visitors lot becomes available.



Finally, It's Here!...Online Continuing Education

By: The Department of Educational Development

Once upon a time, Warren Short, the Training Manager for OEMS, promised a small group of EMT-Instructors and ALS-Coordinators that OEMS was working on a process to allow continuing education (CE) earned online through third party vendors to be electronically received and applied to their CE Report.

Warren spent months, which soon turned into years, developing the interface that would be necessary to import CE records electronically. Once the interface was complete, Warren declared this and all things in the EMS Kingdom to be good. Only now he found himself to be lonely. "Would there be a vendor out there in the real world that could make this new interface work?" Warren pondered.

At the same time all this work was being done, instructors and coordinators would call OEMS and ask, "Is it here yet? Is it here yet?" Only to be told, "No, not yet." After hearing this response for several years, instructors and coordinators alike fell into a state of disbelief.

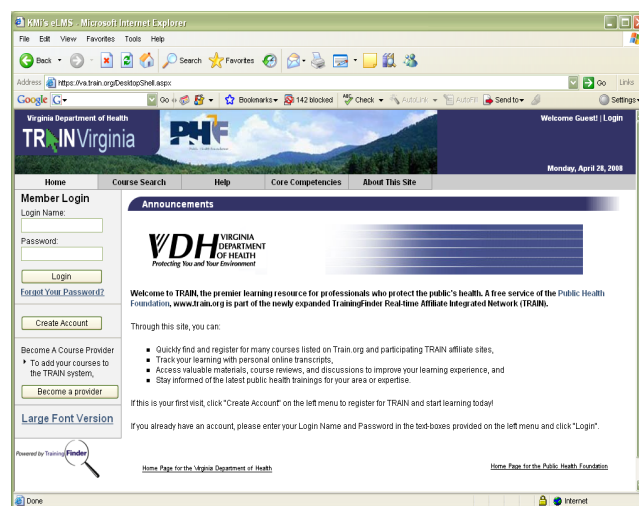
Then suddenly, in early March of 2008, a nice lady named Nicole from 24-7EMS.com called OEMS and inquired about providing CE records electronically. Nicole said that if we gave her a week, she could make the interface work. Warren and his staff were in a state of shock. "Could it really be done?" exclaimed Tom.

"No way, they can't make it work in less than a week," doubted Greg.

"Yeah right, I'll believe it when I see it!" exclaimed Chad.

Soon Nicole and the whole team at 24-7 EMS started working frantically to make the interface Warren built work. They toiled for two long days. On the morning of the third day, Nicole called and said: "Warren, we have completed our work, the system is ready to test."

Hearing this word, Warren promptly fainted and fell from his chair onto the hard floor below. When Warren woke up, he was pleased to learn that his staff had worked all through the night and into the next day testing the system. Nicole was right, the system worked. Warren was very pleased. The moral of this story is: If at first you don't succeed, try, try again.



Here is everything you need to know about online CE in Virginia.

The Division of Educational Development (DED) has added an online option for fulfilling CE requirements. Only Web sites specified on the OEMS Web page will be utilized for online CE credit, as they have met the requirements set forth by OEMS. Courses completed by providers on non-approved Web sites will not receive credit towards their certification. In order to receive credit towards recertification, each provider must utilize the Web site links below and complete the registration form. Please pay special attention to any links that are specific to Virginia's EMTs.

Nightly, each approved vendor will send course results to OEMS electronically. These credits will be automatically applied to the provider's OEMS CE report within 24 to 36 hours of completion of the course. Course completion certificates are printed out by the student for future reference, they are not to be sent to OEMS. Virginia providers must utilize their certification number and level as printed on their certification card. Failure to utilize the proper certification number and/or level will result in credit not being awarded.

As mentioned, a list of approved online CE vendors can be found below. Each vendor Web site has its own price list and accepted forms of payment.

TRAINVirginia, sponsored by VDH, <http://va.train.org>
 24-7 EMS, <http://www.24-7EMSNow.com>
 CentreLearn Solutions, <http://www.centrelearn.com>

Your Questions Answered: HIPAA

By: The Division of Trauma and Critical Care

Why is public health data collected?

VDH/OEMS is charged with protecting the health of all citizens and visitors of Virginia. As with any local, state or federal public health authority, VDH/OEMS recognizes the importance of collecting and sharing protected health information (PHI) to accomplish essential public health objectives.

Public health practice and research, including such traditional public health activities as program operations, public health surveillance, program evaluation, terrorism preparedness, outbreak investigations, direct health services, and public health research, use PHI to identify, monitor, and respond to disease, death, and disability among populations. The Code of Virginia specifically requires OEMS to collect data on the incidence and severity of injury and illness to improve prehospital and hospital EMS.

Does HIPAA apply when submitting data to OEMS?

No. OEMS is a public health authority as defined by HIPAA, 45 C.F.R. § 164.501. HIPAA's Privacy Rule allows public health authorities (such as OEMS) to collect patient identifiable information as part of a public health activity, see 45 C.F.R. § 164.512(b). Data collection through OEMS' statewide trauma registry and EMS registry (PPCR) is one example of a public health activity. State regulations also authorize this type of disclosure in § 32.1-111.3 and § 32.1-116.1 of the Code of Virginia and under 12 VAC 5-31-560 of the Virginia Administrative Code.

Public health authorities have a long history of protecting and preserving the confidentiality of individually identifiable health information. Several laws ensure the protection of patients' privacy by regulating OEMS' permissible uses of identifiable health information that may be collected as part of the trauma and PPCR registries. EMS Regulations require all records maintained by EMS to be secured according to the provisions of 12 VAC 5-31-530; the Code of Virginia also provides detailed information about the protection of PHI relating directly to data collected by OEMS in § 32.1-116.1, 32.1-127.1:03.

What is identifiable information and why is it collected by public health authorities like OEMS?

Identifiable patient information are those data items that can be used to individually identify a person. With EMS data, this would include the patient's social security number (SSN), patient residence (city, county, FIPS code, zip code), date of birth (DOB) and possibly the jurisdiction incident number. Even though HIPAA does not apply to submitting data to public health authorities, such as EMS data being submitted to OEMS, the importance of collecting public health data is recognized by HIPAA provisions. In particular, the Act stipulates in 45 C.F.R. § 164.512(b)(1) that covered entities may disclose protected health information without an individual's authorization to a public health authority such as OEMS for the purpose of public health activities.

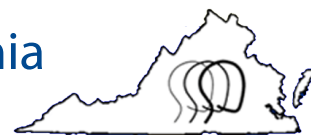
Identifiable data, such as submitting PPCR data with SSN and DOB, is essential to put EMS data to work. As OEMS plans to move toward a new EMS data collection system, the EMS Registry, a major goal with this project is to tie EMS data to the statewide trauma registry, hospital discharge information, DMV's motor vehicle crash law enforcement reports and more. The benefits of tying EMS data to trauma registry and hospital data is that it will allow us to measure the effectiveness of care that EMS providers provide, otherwise known as "outcomes." This form of evidence based practice, is one of the goals stated in the recent Institute of Medicine's (IOM) report "Emergency Medical Services at the Crossroads."

Without patient identifiers, information from separate databases cannot be tied together. In order for an EMS case to be matched to a hospital case the two records must be linked by more than one identifier, i.e. a record will only be successfully linked if the date of the incident, the patient's SSN and DOB can be matched. When an EMS and hospital record are matched, it will be possible to identify if the EMS provider's suspected diagnosis, which is used to choose treatment protocols, turned out to be the patient's actual diagnosis. The hospital admission status, such as whether the patient was discharged from the emergency department, admitted to the hospital or admitted to an intensive care unit are indicators of the level of severity of the patient's illness or injury.

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Get Familiar: The Brain Injury Association of Virginia

By: Anne McDonnell, Executive Director of BIAV



Brain injury goes by many different names: concussion, stroke, coma and occurs in a variety of ways: falls, car accidents, and/or abuse. According to estimates by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), over 154,000 Virginians are disabled as a result of a traumatic brain injury. There are countless more who are not disabled but have lingering effects from an injury, who did not sustain their injury as a result of trauma, who have been misdiagnosed with learning disabilities or mental health issues, or who end up homeless or in jail.

Since its founding nearly 26 years ago by a group of caregivers, the Brain Injury Association of Virginia (BIAV) has provided education, information, medical and legal referral assistance, and advocacy and outreach services to over 250,000 Virginians with brain injuries, their family members, and the professionals who serve them. The mission of BIAV is to create a better future for Virginians through brain injury prevention, research, education, advocacy and support. We are the only statewide organization dedicated to these efforts; in addition to the central office in Richmond, we have regional offices in Virginia Beach, Warsaw, Lynchburg and Harrisonburg.

BIAV plays a key advocacy role with policy makers. In 2007, BIAV worked with the Joint Legislative and Audit Review Commission on a study on access to brain injury services in Virginia. In 2008, BIAV will work with the Department of Public Safety to analyze the incidence of traumatic brain injury among adult and juvenile offender populations. BIAV also helped secure the passage of a Joint Resolution permanently establishing March as Brain Injury Awareness Month in Virginia; legislative funding for the Department of Veterans Services to establish a "Wounded Warrior" program for veterans with brain injury and mental health issues; and funding to expand the current network of service and supports for Virginians with brain injury.

BIAV assists with the development and operation of brain injury support groups across the state, and we are the primary educator on brain injury for survivors, caregivers, and professionals. In 2006, BIAV developed the award-winning Brain Injury and the Schools: A Guide for Educators. This manual has been adopted by the Virginia Department of Education as the state guidelines for serving students with brain

injury. During 2007, BIAV staff provided information to over 15,000 individuals through its Web site, newsletter, information and referral assistance, presentations, workshops, and an annual statewide conference. In addition to public awareness and prevention campaigns, BIAV exhibits at local events, and is conducting targeted outreach to hospitals, free clinics, public schools, athletic coaches, the Hispanic and American Indian communities, domestic violence case workers, and the military community.

BIAV also operates Camp Bruce McCoy, a two-week, overnight recreational program for adult survivors of brain injury. It has been nationally recognized and is considered a model for other brain injury camp programs. Camp Bruce McCoy provides "real world" training for college students who plan to enter health care and human service professions. While this program is for survivors, the value it provides to their caregivers cannot be overstated, as this program is often their only opportunity for respite from providing round-the-clock care the remainder of the year. In 25 years, BIAV has never turned anyone away from this program because they are unable to pay, and we are very grateful for public support that has enabled us to provide scholarships to needy campers.

In Williamsburg June 5–6, 2008, Brain Injury Services, Inc., the National Resource Center for Traumatic Brain Injury, and Virginia Commonwealth University Traumatic Brain Injury Model System will present Rehabilitation of the Adult and Child with Brain Injury: Practical Solutions to Real World Problems. The conference will feature presentations on veterans and combat-related injuries; community integration, cognitive, behavioral, psychosocial, and vocational rehabilitation, as well as pediatric brain injury and academic reentry. Additionally, the National Resource Center for TBI is presenting a national conference for caregivers of persons with Brain Injury on Saturday June 7, 2008.

For more information about the conference or brain injury in general, please contact BIAV at (804) 355-5748 or (800) 334-8443, or visit our Web site at www.biav.net.

Also, don't forget that May is Trauma Awareness Month! Visit www.amtrauma.org for more information.

Your Questions Answered: HIPAA *continued from page 8*

By: The Division of Trauma and Critical Care

An example of “linking” a database that OEMS is already involved in is the Virginia CODES Project. CODES stands for the Crash Outcome Data Evaluation System and links EMS data, OEMS’ trauma registry, DMV’s law enforcement crash reports, hospital information, and the Department of Vital Statistics (death records) together. This allows the

evaluation of victims of motor vehicle crashes through their experience from the police officers report to discharge from a hospital. Online reports, standard reports and crash facts can be found at www.VACODES.org.

Visit www.vdh.virginia.gov/oems for more information.

Upcoming OMD Updates

OEMS in cooperation with the Virginia chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) routinely offers courses that meet the mandatory educational requirements for EMS physicians as specified in the Virginia EMS Regulations.

The one-day OMD course provides participants with the basic foundation necessary to serve as an EMS Physician in Virginia. Attendees of this course learn about physician qualification and endorsement requirements, EMS Regulations, EMS physician roles and responsibilities, EMS personnel and educational requirements, patient care audit and evaluation procedures, and receive an overview of the Virginia EMS System and regional EMS council structure and services. In addition, course participants discuss current issues and concerns related to EMS medical direction including how to negotiate professional service contracts

for medical direction and oversight, medico-legal issues, and strategies to remediate EMS providers.

This course has been planned and implemented in accordance with the Essentials and Standards of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education through the joint sponsorship of ACEP and the ACEP Virginia chapter.

The following OMD courses are scheduled for the remainder of 2008:

June 11 - Lewis Gale Medical Center, Salem, VA

August 6 - Hotel Strasburg, Strasburg, VA

November 13 - Norfolk Waterside Marriott, Norfolk, VA

For information about course registration, please visit the Virginia ACEP Web site at www.vacep.org or the OEMS Web site at www.vdh.virginia.gov/oems.

EMS Quick Hitters

EMS Symposium Update

The 29th Annual Virginia EMS Symposium planning is well underway! Mark your calendars to attend the best symposium of the year, November 12 - 16! This year there will be over 250 courses, the best instructors in the nation and exciting evening entertainment! Plus, John McGinley, best known as gruff Dr. Cox on NBC’s hit show *Scrubs* is this year’s keynote speaker at the Governor’s EMS Awards banquet! Visit www.vdh.virginia.gov/oems to view the Symposium Pre-Conference brochure!

Last Call!

From May 27 - 31, CISM, an OEMS program, will be holding its annual training in Virginia Beach, VA. Join us for a relaxing and informative educational experience. Interact with your peers in fire, EMS, law enforcement and mental health. A more diverse schedule is being offered including new ICISF seminars, yoga and other stress relieving techniques, and a panel discussion on the CISM response to Virginia Tech.

Register today by visiting www.vdh.virginia.gov/oems.

Find Little Gary!

Meet Little Gary Brown! Little Gary is hiding in this newsletter! Can you find him? Send OEMS an e-mail with his correct location and you will be entered into a drawing for a fun OEMS prize! E-mail emstechasst@vdh.virginia.gov with Little Gary’s location!

Little Gary has also wondered off onto the OEMS Web site. Visit www.vdh.virginia.gov/oems to find him!



Calendar of Events

MAY

Su	M	T	W	TH	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

5/2 - Workforce Development Committee, 10:30 a.m.
 5/8 - Emergency Management Committee, 10 a.m.
 5/13 - CISM Committee Meeting, 10 a.m.
 5/15 - FARC Committee Meeting, 1 p.m., Regional EMS Council Directors Meeting, 9:30 a.m., ALS Study, 1 p.m., Regulation and Policy Committee, 3 p.m.
 5/16 - Communications Committee Meeting, 9 a.m., Financial Legislative and Planning Committee, 9 a.m., VAGEMSA, 10 a.m., State EMS Advisory Board, 1 p.m.
 5/18-5/24 - National EMS Week
 5/21 - National EMSC Day, OEMS Stuffed Animal Drive Begins, EMSAT, 7 p.m.. Visit a local Sheetz with your Virginia EMS certification card and receive a free beverage!
 5/24 - National EMS Memorial Service, 6 p.m., Roanoke
 5/27-5/31 - Annual CISM Training, Virginia Beach

May is Trauma Awareness Month!

The Virginia Department of Health Office of Emergency Medical Services publishes the EMS Bulletin quarterly. If you would like to receive this publication via e-mail, please send your request to emstechasst@vdh.virginia.gov or sign up to join our e-mail list at www.vdh.virginia.gov/oems.

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www.vdh.virginia.gov/oems

JUNE

Su	M	T	W	TH	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

6/5 - FARC, 9 a.m., Trauma System Oversight and Management Committee, 10 a.m.
 6/6 - FARC, 9 a.m.
 6/11 - OMD Update,
 6/14 - EMS Instructor Update, 9 a.m., Blacksburg
 6/14-6/15 - Keeping The Best! Workshop, Blacksburg
 6/18 - EMSAT, 7 p.m.

Please check our Web site for event locations and possible changes.

